

A photograph of a university campus at sunset. In the foreground, a large fountain with multiple jets of water is illuminated. Behind it is a green lawn with a few people walking. In the background, there are several modern university buildings with some lights on. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

Megatrends & Families: Focus on Digital Technologies, Migration and Urbanization

Migration and urbanization trends in Africa

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**UNIVERSITY
OF
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Narrative of African migration

- New narrative needs to be in place
- Majority of African migrants tend to cross land borders within Africa rather than across oceans
- Africa only accounts for 14 per cent of international migrants
- Africa is a complex, multi-faceted continent infused with a varied and fluid social, cultural economic, political and environmental milieu
- Foreground the pivotal role migration can play in development of continent



Internal & International migration

- Continue to increase across the continent
- Majority of African migrants move within their respective regions
- At least 1 family member migrated internally or externally
- A strategy to improve livelihoods, to minimize risks and to diversify income sources
- Migration is highly diversified across the continent
- Substantial informal cross border migration between countries
- Internal migration is viewed as a first level resource
- International migration is costly



Who migrates?

- ▶ Likely to be male and between 15 and 34 years of age
- ▶ More agile and resourcefulness
- ▶ Women migrate family reasons inclusive of family reunion, marriage and divorce
- ▶ Family and education most important drivers
- ▶ Increasing movement of skilled and unskilled migration by women independently
- ▶ Women primary breadwinners for sending remittances back to family
- ▶ Care of left-behind children
- ▶ Concerns about mental well-being, leads to increased family tensions, vulnerability to health and sexual violence, and the potential for xenophobic attacks



Internal migration and urbanization

- Increase in movement from rural areas to urban areas
 - Requires the effective integration of urban policies for migration governance
 - Urban cities are seen as important areas of growth and development
 - Current urbanization trends in Africa portrays a steady increase in poverty and inequality
 - Future projections that Africa will become increasingly fast-growing,
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International migration

- African migration is mainly intracontinental
 - South Africa is attractive for international migrants
 - An estimated 47 per cent of all international migrants are female in Africa
 - Data on regular and irregular migration flows is required
 - Governments can be better informed, prepared and put support measures in place.
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Impact on family well-being linked to migration

- Make difficult decisions to leave behind children in care of family members
- Migration exposes the children to potentially risky and impoverished environments filled with uncertainty
- Negative impact of mother's absences
- More research on impact of family well-being on left-behind children and family members needs additional research
- Research how women migrants use ICT's to mitigate against their absence from home

Migration and conflicts

- In 2021, it experienced a record level of forced displacement
- An estimated 32 million Africans were either internally displaced refugees or asylum seekers
- In 2019, Africa became host to 7.3 million refugees (including asylum seekers), this figure accounted for 25 per cent of the global refugee population
- The conflicts include governments' repressive actions against citizens, extremist group violence, militia factions, armed gangs and organized criminal groups linked to transnational crimes involving terrorism, kidnapping, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and smuggling of arms and weapons
- The increased securitization of intra-African migration impacts the ratification of Africa's free movement of person agenda

Recommendations:

- Information about these migration flows are limited
- Reliable data on socio-economic conditions related to migration in rural and urban areas, further disaggregated by age, sex and origin of emigrants is required
- Using an Africa-centric lens to understand a community's cultures, norms and values
- There is little on-going cooperation and information sharing between countries about migration
- Better use of existing migration platforms to coordinate information and data sharing to inform policy makers
- Concrete, empirical evidence based studies are required to counterpose the negative narrative of migration from Africa.